

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 CIAE-00
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P 061818Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:FODAG, SREF, UN, XA

SUBJECT: UNHCR RESTRICTS DEALINGS TO CERTAIN RHODESIAN
REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS

REFS: (A) GENEVA 6481; (B) LUSAKA 2148; (C) STATE 17551;
(D) ROME 12489/ (E) GENEVA 6635; (F) LUSAKA 2287

1. REF E PRESENTS UK POSITION AS RECEIVED HERE EXCEPT FOR
ALLEGED REFUSAL TO HELP SITHOLE GROUP.
2. DEPARTMENT AWARE THAT VAST MAJORITY OF ZIMBABWEAN
REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA ARE IN ZAPU CAMPS AND THAT GRZ OPERATES
THOSE CAMPS THROUGH THAT LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. OBVIOUSLY,
BULK PROGRAMS ARE NECESSARY FOR THESE CAMPS. HOWEVER, THERE
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ARE ALSO SUPPORTERS OF BOTH MUXOREWA AND SITHOLE IN ZAMBIA.
REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THESE GROUPS INDICATED TO DEPARTMENT
REFUGEE OFFICER LOWMAN THAT THEY HAD NEED OF ASSISTANCE.
UNHCR REP HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD GIVE ASSISTANCE WHEN
THEY ASK FOR IT, BUT SAID THEY HAD NOT YET APPROACHED HIM.
HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE WOULD REFUSE AID TO ANY GROUP/
DEPARTMENT WOULD BE DISTURBED IF GROUPS NOT BELONGING TO THE

PATRIOTIC FRONT WERE TREATED ON A BASIS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE BELONGING TO THE FRONT, THOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MODE OF TREATMENT WOULD NECESSARILY BE DIFFERENT IN VIEW OF THE SMALLER NUMBERS INVOLVED. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS POLICY WITH REGARD TO REFUGEE ASSISTANCE IN BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE, ETC.

3. DEPT. ALSO REQUESTS CLARIFICATION ARISING FROM REF A ABOUT TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES, INCLUDING THOSE NOT MEMBERS OF THE FRONT. UNDER ITS NEW GUIDELINES, UNHCR TAKES COGNIZANCE OF THE DATE OF THE OAU DECISION AS A BASIS FOR ITS TREATMENT OF REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS. DOES UNHCR ACCORD EQUAL PROTECTION AND LIFE-SUPPORT TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE FRONT AS TO FRONT MEMBERS? DOES IT MAKE A DISTINCTION AS TO WHEN THE REFUGEE APPLIED?

4. DEPT. UNAWARE OF STATEMENT OF OAU OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN DECLARING MUZOREWA GROUP, ETC., HAD LOST OAU RECOGNITION AND AGREE WITH REFTEL F THAT UNGCR HEADQUARTERS INTERPRETATION OVERSTATES INTENT OF DELIBERATELY IMPRECISE RESOLUTION. NEVERTHELESS, OUR POSITION IS BASED ON PERSONS' STATUS AS REFUGEES, NOT MEMBERSHIP IN PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION.

5. MISSION SHOULD NOTE CONCERN WHICH WOULD ARISE IN
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CONGRESS IF ONLY FRONT MEMBERS RECEIVED REFUGEE ASSISTANCE. THIS WOULD BE EXACERBATED IF WFP FOOD GOING TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS. THIS UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE IS SUGGESTED BY FIGURES IN REF D, WHICH APPEAR LARGER THAN PURELY NON-COMBATANT REFUGEE POLPULATION.

6. REQUEST MISSION TO CONSULT WITH UK MISSION AND MAKE SAME APPROACH TO UNHCR, ALSO DRAWING ON PARAS 2 THROUGH 5 ABOVE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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